



**SOUTH KESTEVEN  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

FOR THE

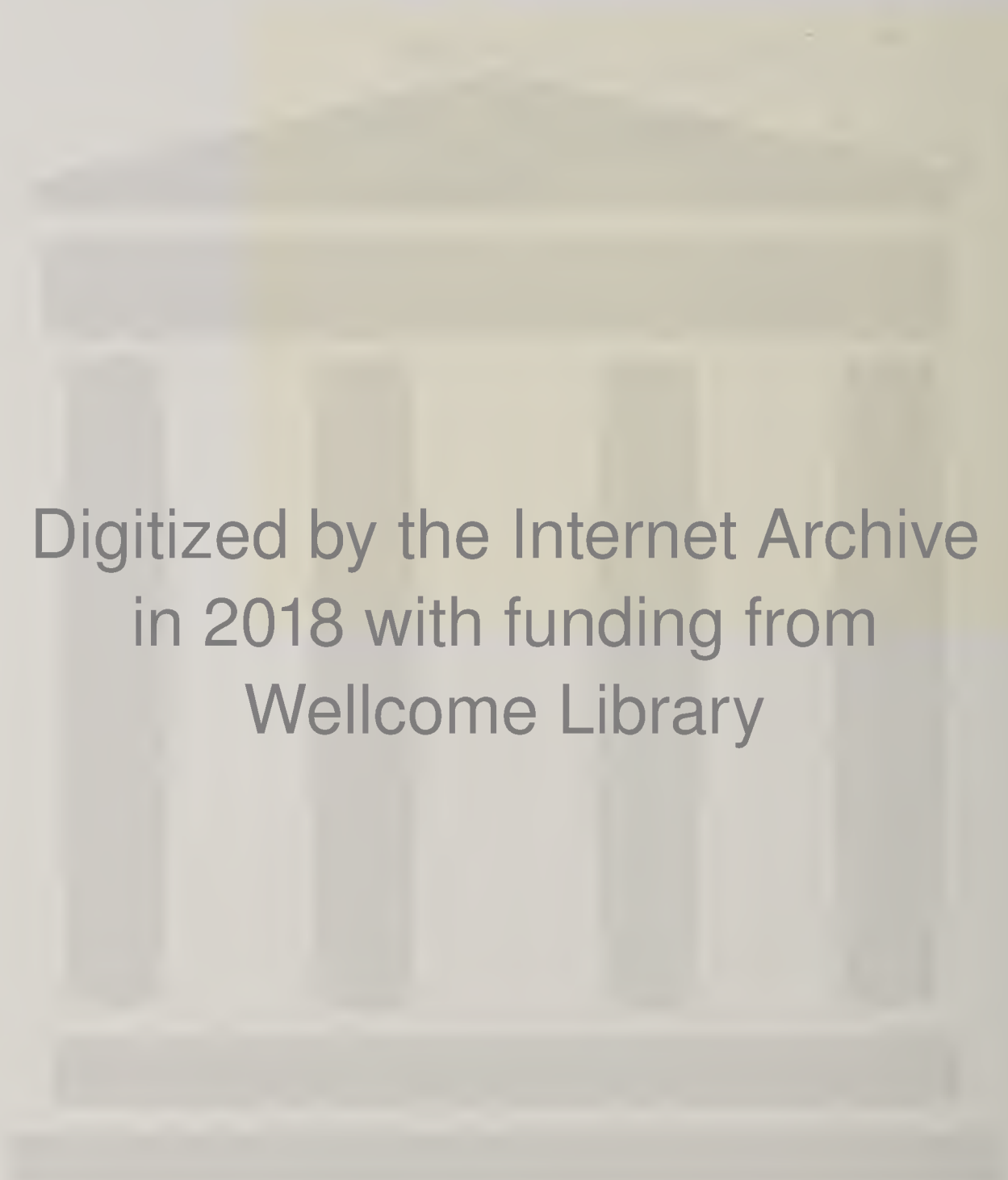
**YEAR 1967**



M.O.H. Rept. South Kesteven R.D.C. 1967

Miss Wright E203      L.M. Wright      11.11.69

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SOUTH KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1967

Chairman

Councillor Dr. J.A. Galletly

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Vice-Chairman

Councillor H. Scarborough

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Members

Councillor W.O. Andrews.  
Councillor H. Brown.  
Councillor H.W. Bailey.  
Councillor Mrs. C.A. Baker.  
Councillor K. Bates. J.P.  
Councillor Mrs. E.A. Beacock.  
Councillor J.C. Cave.  
Councillor F. Covell.  
Councillor G.G. Crowson.  
Councillor E.A. D'Arcy.  
Councillor F. Foster.  
Councillor A.J. Freeman.  
Councillor W. Harris.  
Councillor J.B. Hilton.  
Councillor F. Key.

Councillor Rev. T.E. Matthews.  
Councillor C.J. Pope.  
Councillor G.W. Pannell.  
Councillor W.E. Preston.  
Councillor Rev. K.T. Street.  
Councillor Rev. D.L. Scott.  
Councillor R.A. Stanton.  
Councillor Mrs. M.A. Snodgrass.  
Councillor Hon. Mrs. D.N.  
Trollope-Bellew, J.P.  
Councillor H. Thorold.  
Councillor Mrs. P.M. Toulson.  
Councillor F.H. Whincup.  
Councillor A.D. Wright.  
Councillor T. Whotton.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	H. Ellis Smith, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., 41, North Street, BOURNE. Tel. No. Bourne 2436.
Chief Public Health Inspector and Building Surveyor	Walter A. Chivers, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., 41, North Street, BOURNE. Tel. No. Bourne 2436.
Senior Additional Public Health Inspector	John G. Bower, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector	Brian W. Hyde, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H. (Resigned 5.2.67.) Denis Goodley, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., (Appointed 3.4.67.)
Sewage Works Chemist	Vernon B. Maxfield. (Appointed 1.9.66.)
Building Inspector	Charles H. Busby.
Trainee Public Health Inspector	Robert B. Capindale. (Appointed 2.10.67.)
Shorthand-Typist and General Clerk	Miss J. Rawlinson.
Junior Clerk	Miss P.A. Wade, (Resigned 10.11.67.) Miss N. Foster, (Appointed 13.11.67.)
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Clerk of the Council	J.J.C. Goulder, M.B.E.
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SOUTH KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
41, North Street,  
BOURNE, Lincs.

March, 1968.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
South Kesteven Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my 29th Annual Report on the work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors and Building Inspector during the year 1967.

1. STATISTICS

Total number of inspections carried out .. .. .	5,267
Number of sanitary works completed .. .. .	59
Number of letters and notices despatched.. .. .	3,134

2. DETAILS OF VISITS

Water Supplies	56	Food Hygiene	29
Water Samples	55	Food Preparing Premises	18
Drainage	316	Food and Drugs	1
Drain Tests	123	Restaurants and Cafés	10
Watercourses	4	Bakehouses	4
Farm Effluents	34	Fried Fish Shops	4
Public Conveniences	6	Fish Stalls	8
Sewage Disposal Works	2	Food Stalls	3
Piggeries	1	Grocers' Shops	23
Rats and Mice	55	Greengrocers & Fruiterers	12
P.H.A. Nuisances	132	Butchers' Shops	17
Refuse Disposal	6	Butcher's Van	1
Moveable Dwellings	77	Slaughterhouses	248
Factories and Workshops	4	Delivery Vehicles	19
Licensed Premises	14	Ice Cream Premises	29
Petroleum Acts	73	Ice Cream Samples	17
Building Inspections	1584	Milk Samples	143
Planning	26	Gaming Licences	13
Housing Visits	680	Disinfestations	2
Tenancy Applications	14	Infectious Diseases	46
Mortgages	10	Offices, Shops and	
Improvements Grants	605	Railway Premises Act, 1963.	87
W.C. Conversion Grants	29	Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	615

### 3. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

#### (a) Ice Cream

Twenty-nine visits were made to the one factory in the District where ice cream is manufactured, and to the several shops where ice cream is sold by retail. One other factory which had been used for the manufacture of ice cream for several years ceased to be used for this purpose during the year, and is now used as a hardware store in conjunction with shop premises adjoining.

Seventeen samples of ice cream and fifteen samples of iced lollipops were taken during the year. Fifteen of the ice cream samples taken were reported, upon analysis, to be in Provisional Grades 1 and 2, which are satisfactory, and the remaining two samples were placed in Provisional Grade 3 which is unsatisfactory. The two unsatisfactory samples were produced by a manufacturer outside the Rural District, and, following representations to the Chief Public Health Inspector of the area concerned, with the subsequent "follow-up" at the factory in question, a further sample taken in this District was found to be satisfactory.

Fourteen of the iced lollipop samples taken were found, upon analysis, to be in Provisional Grades 1 and 2, which are satisfactory. Rather surprisingly, the one remaining sample which was found to be unsatisfactory was from one of the large national ice cream manufacturers, but subsequent samples taken were found to be satisfactory.



Details of the samples of ice cream and iced lollipops taken during the year are as follows:-

<u>Ice Cream Samples.</u>				
Date	Sample Number	Identification Reference of Manufacturer	Type of Sample	Methylene Blue Test Provisional Grade
21.6.67.	1	M/23 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	1
21.6.67.	2	M/8 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	3
21.6.67.	3	M/15 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	1
21.6.67.	4	M/6 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	2
21.6.67.	5	M/2 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	2
21.6.67.	6	M/21 S.K.R.D.C.	Loose Ice Cream	1
1.8.67.	7	M/23 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	1
1.8.67.	8	M/8 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	3
1.8.67.	9	M/15 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	1
1.8.67.	10	M/21 S.K.R.D.C.	Loose Ice Cream	1
1.8.67.	11	M/6 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	2
1.8.67.	12	M/2 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	2
13.9.67.	13	M/21 S.K.R.D.C.	Loose Ice Cream	1
13.9.67.	14	M/2 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	1
13.9.67.	15	M/6 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	1
13.9.67.	16	M/8 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	2
13.9.67.	17	M/23 Outside Area	Wrapped Block	1

Lollipop Samples

Date	Sample Number	Identification Reference of Manufacturer	Type of Sample	Methylene Blue Test Provisional Grade
21.6.67.	1	M/6 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
21.6.67.	2	M/2 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
21.6.67.	3	M/24 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	2
21.6.67.	4	M/25 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
1.8.67.	5	M/23 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	2
1.8.67.	6	M/8 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
1.8.67.	7	M/2 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	3
1.8.67.	8	M/15 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
1.8.67.	9	M/6 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
1.8.67.	10	M/21 S.K.R.D.C.	Cream Lollipop	1
13.9.67.	11	M/21 S.K.R.D.C.	Cream Lollipop	1
13.9.67.	12	M/2 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
13.9.67.	13	M/6 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
13.9.67.	14	M/8 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
13.9.67.	15	M/23 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The regular inspection of meat at the three private slaughterhouses in the district is given high priority by your Officers in their task of ensuring that the inhabitants of this area consume only meat which is pure and wholesome, and free from disease. It is a very gratifying sign of the times that Tuberculosis in food animals is almost non-existent nowadays, and the work of your Officers in connection with meat inspection is made easier due to the fact that the butchers concerned continue to buy and slaughter good quality animals, as shown by the fact that, of 361 adult cattle slaughtered during the year, only 4 were cows, the remainder being either young bullocks or heifers. Most of the meat condemned during the year was offal affected by the usual day-to-day conditions found in post-mortem examination. Each year brings the usual large number of bovine livers condemned for Fascioliasis, a condition very common in Irish cattle, where the pasture-land tends to perpetuate the water snail and liver fluke.

The three slaughterhouses are licensed annually by the Council, and a Ministry of Food Veterinary Officer visits them several times a year in company with your Officers, when, apart perhaps from minor items, which the butchers are asked to rectify, he expresses satisfaction at the way the premises are conducted.

The following animals, a total of 1700, were inspected at the three private slaughterhouses in the Rural District during the year 1967:-

<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Bullocks</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Heifers</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
-	276	4	81	-	1276	63

As a result of such inspections, the following unsound meat was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:-

1	Pig's head and tongue	10	lb.	Tuberculosis
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Beasts' livers	288	lb.	Fascioliasis
	Parts of 3 Beasts' livers	18	lb.	Fascioliasis
	Parts of 2 Bullocks' livers	8	lb.	Fascioliasis
1	Bullock's heart and liver	4	lb.	Fascioliasis
1	Pig's kidney	$\frac{1}{2}$	lb.	Cystic
1	Beast's kidney	3	lb.	Cystic
2	Pigs' livers	6	lb.	Cysticercus Tenuicollis
1	Beast's lungs and spleen	14	lb.	Pleurisy and Pericarditis
1	Beast's heart	2	lb.	Epicarditis



1	Beast's head	40	lb.	Actinobacillosis
1	Bullock's tongue	5	lb.	Actinobacillosis
1	Pig's lungs	2	lb.	Pneumonia
3	Sheep's lungs	1	lb.	Congestion
	Part of Beast's liver	1	lb.	Cirrhosis
1	Beast's liver	14	lb.	Necrosis
1	Pig's carcass and offals	60	lb.	Haemorrhagic enteritis
2	Bullocks' livers	28	lb.	Abscesses
1	Bullock's kidney, fat and liver	20	lb.	Abscesses
1	Pig's head and tongue	30	lb.	Abscess
9	Beasts' livers	127	lb.	Abscesses
1	Sheep's liver	3	lb.	Abscess
1	Beast's kidney	3	lb.	Abscesses
1	Thin skirt	3	lb.	Abscesses
4	Sheep's livers	9	lb.	Parasitic infection
	Part of Sheep's liver	2	lb.	Parasitic infection
2	Sheep's lungs	3	lb.	Parasitic
1	Bovine lungs	10	lb.	Parasitic infection
1	Part leg of lamb	6	lb.	Bruising
8	Sheep's lungs	16	lb.	Strongyli

Total weight of unsound meat voluntarily surrendered and destroyed during the year 1967:-

6 cwts. 2 qr. 0 st. 8 lb. 8 ozs.	as compared with
6 cwts. 1 qr. 1 st. 12 lb. 4 ozs.	for the previous year.

<u>Carcases Inspected and Condemned</u>					
	<u>Cattle</u> ( <u>excluding</u> <u>Cows</u> )	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number Killed	357	4	-	1276	63
Number Inspected	357	4	-	1276	63
<u>All Diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis</u>					
(a) Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	46	-	-	20	5
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	12.88%	-	-	1.57%	9.53%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
(a) Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.59%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
(a) Carcases of which some organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-



(c) Milk.

Your Public Health Inspectors have continued their policy of taking regular samples of milk from those producers in the Rural District who supply by retail untreated milk direct to the consumer, with a view to the eradication of Brucella affected cows from dairy herds. In this connection, 167 single samples and 85 bulk samples of untreated milk were taken during the past year, and, of these, 4 positive samples were found either on culture or guinea pig inoculation examination. The 4 positive samples were in respect of 2 cows in one dairy herd, and both cows were immediately withdrawn from the herd and sold.

Following continuous pressure during the past few years from various interested public bodies, the Minister of Agriculture has now decided to institute a voluntary Brucella eradication scheme incorporating the registration of Brucella-free herds. This is a step in the right direction but one would have liked to have seen more and quicker positive action. We have been trying to achieve this for several years now with one of our larger producer/retailers of untreated milk, but, no sooner do we find that, after many weeks of sampling, we are in sight of our goal, something happens to bring us back to the beginning of our cycle, and, whilst we eliminate infected cows, the time-consuming work of taking further samples continues. We have never reached the stage where the Medical Officer of Health has had sufficient evidence to make an order prohibiting the sale of this untreated milk, as positive results always seem to occur in the screening tests of newly-calved cows before their milk is allowed to be included in retail bulk supply. Eradication of infected cows by slaughter depends so much on the state of the market at the time. If beef prices are low, there is still nothing in law to stop a farmer sending to market an infected cow for re-sale into another dairy herd, and this is a loophole which should be stopped in the interests of public health. I referred in my Annual Report last year to the hidden and undefined cost to the dairy farming industry, brought about by the loss of future dairying stock, wastage of infected milk, extra cost of pasteurisation, etc., and to the cost to local authorities in the vast amount of time which has to be spent in taking regular milk samples, and I would pose the question - is not a shorter "crash" campaign of "cure" better than the longer time-consuming measures of "prevention" in this case?

4. HOUSING

Number of dwellings built by the Council during 1967	-	18
Number of private houses erected during 1967	-	210
Number of houses made fit under Improvement Grants		
during 1967	-	54
Number of families re-housed by the Council during		
1967	-	77

1.	<u>Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year 1967.</u>		
1(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	-	162
(b)	Inspections made for that purpose	-	501
2(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Act, 1957	-	83
(b)	Inspections made for that purpose	-	112
3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-	89
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	-	61
2.	<u>Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.</u>		
1.	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	-	37
3.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</u>		
A.	<u>Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957.</u>		
1.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-	NIL
2.	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-		
	(a) By owners	-	NIL
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	-	NIL
B.	<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts</u>		
1.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	-	2



2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:-

(a) By owners	-	NIL
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	-	NIL

C. Proceedings under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-	52
2. Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	-	20
3. Number of dwellinghouses demolished as a result of informal action	-	11
4. Number of Closing Orders made	-	6
5. Number of undertakings accepted	-	10

Following the appointment in 1966 of a separate Building Inspector to deal with Building Control under the Building Regulations, 1965, your Public Health Inspectors have had more time to devote to their public health duties, and, in connection with Slum Clearance, action was taken during the year in respect of a further 68 sub-standard houses. As a result, 52 Demolition Orders and 6 Closing Orders were made during the year, and undertakings to repair were accepted by the Council from property owners in respect of a further 10 houses.

In the first 12 years of our Slum Clearance Programme, as submitted to and accepted by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, 570 houses have now been dealt with, and we now have a further 135 houses to deal with during the next 6 of our 18 years programme, thus we are well in front of Schedule.

Details of the position as at the 31st December, 1967, are as follows:-

(a) Total number of houses in respect of which action was taken up to the 31st December, 1967, under the Slum Clearance Programme	-	570
(b) Number of houses in respect of which:-		
(1) Demolition Orders were made	-	365

(2)	Closing Orders were made	-	72
(3)	Undertakings were accepted to repair	-	77
(4)	Undertakings were accepted not to relet	-	13
(5)	Undertakings were accepted to use as agricultural or other stores	-	29
(6)	Action not yet determined	-	14
(c)	Number of houses demolished	-	304
(d)	Total number of houses to be dealt with in Slum Clearance Programme, up to the 10th September, 1973.	-	705

A further 31 houses were demolished during the year, making a total of 304 demolished during the first 12 years of our 18 years Slum Clearance Programme. During those 12 years, the Council has made 365 Demolition Orders and 72 Closing Orders. This, I feel, is a very good record of progress in Slum Clearance work in the District, as there must inevitably be a time lag between Demolition Orders being made, and tenants being re-housed, before condemned houses can be demolished. The issue becomes more frustrating when, from a row of condemned houses, all tenants except one have been re-housed, and the one still remaining in residence resists all persuasive measures to move. There are also quite a number of cases where deferred Demolition Orders have been placed upon houses occupied by elderly persons who do not wish to be re-housed. One hopes, naturally, that a number of these will resolve themselves before the end of the Slum Clearance Campaign, either by the old people eventually going to live with their children or, unfortunately, by their inevitable decease, and, perhaps by the time that these cases have to be reviewed, the problem will have been reduced in number.

The Council's Housing Standards Committee, under the Chairmanship of Councillor H.W. Bailey, has many human problems to deal with, but its work during the past year has, once again, proceeded smoothly, due in no small measure to the persuasive powers of your Public Health Inspectors, who, as the "back room boys", have done all they can to make the formal work of the Committee easier, when the condition of sub-standard houses is being considered. As I look back over the years of Slum Clearance work, I feel that the Committee has maintained a very good balance of firmness and sympathy, depending on the circumstances of each particular case, and I am grateful for the understanding they have shown in the many problems which arise, and for their support.

The Council's Tenants Committee, under the Chairmanship of Councillor Mrs. E.M. Percival, has continued to give a fair allocation of tenancies of Council houses to persons being displaced from Slum Clearance houses, and, here again, I am grateful to this



Committee for maintaining a balance between the needs of Slum Clearance and the main other claims for priority for re-housing with which it has to deal.

There is not a Department of the Council which does not, in some way, have something to do with Housing, and it is obviously one of the Council's most important functions, embracing as it does the building of new Council houses and bungalows, the clearance of unfit houses, the repair and reconditioning of existing houses, the allocation of tenancies for newly-built Council houses and bungalows, and the re-letting of existing Council houses and bungalows which become vacant from time to time. In addition, nearly 1400 existing Council houses and bungalows have to be kept in repair and regularly maintained, and the Council has agreed to a programme for the provision of waterclosets, bathrooms, etc., in all the pre-war Council houses which lack these amenities. Your Surveyor (Mr. A. H. Harvey) has now had just over 300 pre-war Council houses provided with water closets, bathrooms, etc., and this work of carrying out such improvements will continue in the future as the economic situation permits. Both the Council and its Public Health Officers continue to give the utmost encouragement to property owners wishing to improve their houses with the aid of Discretionary or Standard Improvement Grants, details of which will be found in Section 10 of this Report.

The number of new Council-owned dwellings erected during the year was 18 as compared with 34 for the previous year, and 77 families were re-housed either in new or existing Council houses or bungalows, as compared with 152 for the previous year. One of the social problems of our times is deciding what to do with "problem" families living in unfit houses. It is extremely difficult to persuade a landlord to carry out improvements to a house which is tenanted by a problem family. He will point out the damage which has been done to his property in the past due in some cases, to the tenant taking off internal doors and chopping them up for firewood, with the consequential damage to floors, and other items of wilful damage. On the other hand, the "do-gooders" will say that, unless you provide these families with a modern house, how can anyone prejudge whether or not they will become good citizens. I am not so sure on either point of view. One local authority, during the past year, tried an experiment in that they tried to integrate problem families on an estate by allocating them every other house, with "good" families as their neighbours. The experiment was not a success and the "good" families rebelled against it. Segregation of any kind, in theory, is probably not a good thing, but, in practice, with these problem families, maybe it would be a good idea for local authorities to provide "half-way" houses (i.e. houses provided with the basic essentials but below the standard of a modern house) where these families had to "prove" that they deserved a modern house before



being re-housed thereto.

During the year, 210 new private houses and bungalows were built by private enterprise, as compared with 207 during the previous year, and 226 houses and bungalows were in course of erection at the end of the year, as compared with 248 in course of erection at the end of 1966. For the third successive year, more houses were built in this Rural District than in any single year previously, but despite the large number of Planning Consents still not taken up, in view of the present economic state of the country, it would appear that the erection of new private houses will tend to slow-up in 1968.

## 5. DRAINAGE

The year 1967 saw limited progress on the provision of new sewerage schemes, due to various factors, although the Council continued its forward-looking policy of instructing its Consulting Engineers (Messrs. G.B. Kershaw and Kaufman, of Westminster, London) to proceed with the preparation of detailed schemes for groups of villages in Phase 2 of the Post-War Sewerage Programme. Unfortunately, due to the economic situation, the Council has had to agree to defer the implementation of a scheme for the villages of Castle Bytham, Little Bytham, Creeton, Swayfield and Swinstead, and also the Deepings Expansion Scheme. On the other hand, towards the end of the year, the Minister had agreed that the Council should go forward with the scheme for Uffington, and tenders for this work were then being obtained. One small scheme was completed during the year, with the provision of new foul sewers in the hamlet of Stainfield, together with the installation of a pumping station, for the sewage to be pumped on to the new sewerage system recently constructed at Morton. One new scheme was in progress at the end of the year, and this was for new foul sewers in Folkingham, Pointon and Birthorpe, with the consequent enlargement of the existing sewage disposal works at Horbling, into which the sewage from these three villages would discharge. Approval in principle had also been received by the end of the year to provide new sewers at Carlby, to discharge into a new sewage disposal works at Essendine by arrangement with the Ketton Rural District Council, and for a new Sewerage Scheme for Edenham, Grimsthorpe and Scottlethorpe, but both these Schemes were deferred in view of the economic situation. No further progress has been made yet into the Council's proposals to provide new sewers at Rippingale, Dowsby and Dunsby.

Villages already satisfactorily re-sewered since the end of the last war are Baston, Langtoft, Market Deeping, Deeping St. James, Corby Glen, Billingborough, Horbling, Morton, Haconby and Stainfield, and Thurlby, and these ten villages cover approximately half the population of the Rural District.



Again I would stress the urgency of the need for a new Sewerage Scheme for the Castle Bytham, Little Bytham, Creeton, Swayfield and Swinstead group of villages. In several places in this area there are several swallow holes where the Lincolnshire Limestone outcrops, and there must always be with us the nagging fear of pollution of underground water supplies, due to the discharge of sewage into watercourses and even direct into fissures in the Limestone. It is hoped also that the Deepings Expansion Scheme will not be delayed for too long, in view of the possible overloading of the present sewerage system by ever-increasing development in the Deepings area. In actual fact, the delay in proceeding with the Expansion Scheme means that the Planning Authority has had to put on a very hard brake on future development in this area. It is regretted that, once again, the Rippingale and district scheme has had to be shelved, and the residents there must be wondering if they will ever get a new sewerage scheme! The existing small settling tank at the east end of the village is totally inadequate to deal with both foul and surface water which discharges to it, and there is a continuing Public Health nuisance in the dyke along the north side of Station Street.

The provision of new sewerage schemes in the villages mentioned previously has helped considerably the endeavours of your Public Health Officers in raising the standards of housing in the district, and many owners of dwellinghouses have taken advantage of the facilities provided by the Council for improvements thereto, incorporating new bathrooms and water closets, etc. As the Council is aware, the Government continues to press local authorities to give more and more improvement grants. Unfortunately, progress in this respect is rather slow in those villages which had not been provided with modern sewage disposal schemes, but, where improvement grant schemes are carried out in villages which are unsatisfactorily sewered, this leads to increasing pollution of streams and watercourses. In this day and age, surely the provision of a bathroom and water closet is a necessity and not a luxury, and the residents in the smaller villages have an equal right to these amenities as those living in the larger villages where adequate sewerage facilities have been provided.

During the year, the Council exercised its powers under Section 42 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the house drainage systems from a further 3 properties in Deeping St. James, and from one property in Baston, were connected to the new sewers making a total of 354 houses so dealt with since new post-war Sewerage Schemes have been completed.

The Council's Public Health Inspectors continue to spend a large amount of their time on drainage matters, and, during the past year, 316 drainage visits were made as compared with 556 for

the previous year, whilst 123 drain tests were carried out as compared with 230 during the previous year.

Details of the number of house connections made to the new sewers in the ten villages served by the new Sewerage Schemes, together with the percentage of the approximate number of houses which are capable of being so connected are as follows:-

Village	Houses connected to new sewers			Approx. total No. of houses capable of being connected.	%
	Private	Council	Total		
Billingham	295	74	369	441	84%
Horbling	95	66	161	202	80%
Corby Glen	148	48	196	196	100%
Baston	143	60	203	226	90%
Langtoft	138	36	174	176	99%
Market Deeping	379	144	523	655	80%
Deeping St. James	617	179	796	942	84%
Thurlby and Northorpe	245	54	299	301	99%
Haconby and Stainfield	64	18	82	90	91%
Morton and Hanthorpe	168	132	300	302	99%
TOTALS	2292	811	3103	3531	91%

In addition to this work, 15 new water closets were provided in place of existing pail closets or privy vaults, with the aid of 50% grants towards the costs incurred by owners in so doing, at dwellinghouses at Northorpe, Baston, Deeping St. James, Morton and Billingham. The total cash value of such grants amounted to £528. 10s. 0d. as compared with £360. 15s. 6d. for the previous year.

## 6. CLEANSING SERVICES

### (a) Refuse Collection and Disposal

Due to the considerable increase in the amount of tinned and packaged goods since the end of the last War, refuse has likewise increased considerably in volume, and this factor, together with the considerable number of new dwellinghouses erected in the District during recent years, has meant more and more work for the refuse collectors who deserve praise for the way in which they carry out



their uncongenial occupation.

Much time and thought was given by a Public Health Sub-Committee, during the year, with a view to a weekly collection service being provided in place of the existing fortnightly service. The Sub-Committee's recommendation that this be done was approved by the Public Health Committee, but was rejected by the Council when the Minutes of the Public Health Committee came up for approval. Perhaps this was understandable, as, by the time the recommendation came before the Council, it was obvious that the Country's economic situation was in a sorry state, but I must continue to urge the Council, on Public Health grounds, to provide a weekly collection service as soon as the state of the economy improves. I would again reiterate that germs and flies revel in the breeding grounds provided for them in the domestic dustbin, particularly during the summer months, if putrescible matter, which quickly decomposes, is stored therein for as long as two weeks.

Three refuse freighters with 10 workmen now carry out this service under the direction of the Surveyor (Mr. A.H. Harvey) and refuse from approximately 5,000 properties is collected and disposed of annually at refuse tips situated at Billingborough, Thurlby, Carlby, Castle Bytham, Swinstead and Deeping St. James.

During the past year, the Surveyor (Mr. A.H. Harvey) was able to sell 48 tons. 6 cwts. of waste paper for £153. 13s. 4d. and it is hoped that he will be able to continue to find an outlet for this material. By selling waste paper, not only is tipping space being saved, but also the refuse tips can be kept in a more tidy condition.

(b) Pail and Cesspool Emptying Service.

The free weekly emptying of sanitary pails from dwellinghouses in the district continues to provide a useful service to those householders in the unsewered villages who do not have water closets, but I look forward to the day when all villages in the district have been provided with new sewerage systems, with the ultimate benefit of water-borne sanitation. The present service is carried out under the direction of the Surveyor (Mr. A.H. Harvey), by two 1100 gallons capacity Cesspool emptying vehicles, provided with pail hopper attachments, each vehicle being manned by a team of three men comprising a Driver/Loader and two Loaders. Approximately 800 pails are emptied weekly, and it is good to see that this number is now diminishing as each year passes, due to the provision of new sewerage schemes in several more villages each year. The nightsoil thus collected is disposed of by composting by arrangement with certain farmers in the district, but the present system is not satisfactory, and I was very pleased when the Council decided to ask their

Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme for nightsoil disposal facilities to be provided at the Horbling sewage disposal works. It is anticipated that these facilities will be provided during the current year and thus ease the minds of your Public Health Officers who have never been very happy about the existing disposal arrangements. Complaints from householders in regard to the collection of nightsoil from dwellinghouses are surprisingly few, and the Council's employees are to be congratulated on the way in which they carry out work which very few of us would be willing to do.

In addition to the weekly pail emptying service, privy vaults, cesspools, septic tanks, etc., at dwellinghouses and other premises are emptied upon request, either as a free service or upon payment. In those villages where no new post-war sewerage scheme has been provided, one free emptying per year is given, and a charge is made for subsequent emptyings during the same twelve months, whilst in those villages which are in fact provided with modern sewerage schemes, a charge is made for every emptying. Details of such work carried out during the year are as follows:-

Emptying of Vaults, Cesspools, Septic Tanks, Etc.,

(a) Septic tanks and Cesspools emptied.. .. .	662
(b) Single vaults emptied .. .. .	29
	<hr/>
	691
	<hr/>

This branch of work resulted in an income of £445. 0s. 0d. to the Council during the year, as compared with £383. 5s. 0d. for the previous year.

## 7. WATER SUPPLIES

There are three main supplies of water, now under the jurisdiction of the South Lincolnshire Water Board, to the villages in the Rural District, and these are as follows:-

- (a) The villages of Baston, Langtoft, Market Deeping, Deeping St. James, Wilsthorpe, Braceborough, Greatford, Barholm, Tallington and West Deeping are supplied by the Peterborough Corporation.
- (b) The villages and hamlets of Horbling, Bridge End, Billingborough, Birthorpe, Folkingham, Laughton, Aslackby, Pointon, Millthorpe, Little Dowsby, Graby, Kirkby Underwood, and Stainfield are supplied from the bore at Billingborough.



- (c) The villages and hamlets of Dowsby, Dunsby, Haconby, Morton, Ripplingale, Thurlby, Toft, Lound, Manthorpe, Witham-on-the-Hill, Carlby, Careby, Holywell, Little Bytham, Creeton, Counthorpe, Castle Bytham, Swayfield, Swinstead, Irnham, Hawthorpe, Bulby, Edenham and Corby Glen are supplied from the bore at Bourne through the Lound Pumping Station.

Uffington is supplied from Stamford.

Every Parish in the Rural District has a piped supply of mains water and, apart from a few hamlets and small groups of houses in the Fens, it is now possible for over 94% of the houses in the area to be supplied with piped water. This is of particular help to your Public Health Officers, when samples of water taken from private bores, wells, etc., are found to be polluted, as the use of these can now be discontinued and the houses in question provided with a pure and sufficient supply of water for all purposes from the Water Board's mains.

Sixty samples of water were taken during the year from the Public Supply mains and from private bores, wells, etc. Details of the results found upon analysis are as follows:-

#### Water Samples.

(a)	From Public Supply mains .. .. .	4
(i)	Number found to be satisfactory.. .. .	4
(ii)	Number found to be polluted.. .. .	-
(b)	From Private Bores, Wells, etc. .. .. .	56
(i)	Number found to be satisfactory.. .. .	22
(ii)	Number found to be polluted.. .. .	25
(iii)	Number found to be suspicious .. .. .	9

With regard to the thirty-four unsatisfactory samples taken from private supplies, the occupiers of the houses concerned were advised to boil all such water used for drinking purposes, and where it was possible to provide a mains supply, this was done. In other cases, where no mains supply was available, advice was given to the owners with a view to an improvement being effected in the condition of these supplies.

Samples were also taken from the four mains piped supplies during the year, and all were reported upon analysis, to be quite satisfactory for drinking purposes. The following are the Analyst's reports on the four samples taken:-

#### BILLINGBOROUGH SUPPLY

'This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character but not excessively so and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It is of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.'

#### UFFINGTON (EX STAMFORD) SUPPLY

'This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character but not excessively so and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It is of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.'

#### TALLINGTON (EX PETERBOROUGH) SUPPLY

'This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character but not excessively so and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It is of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.'

#### LOUND (EX SPALDING) SUPPLY

'This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of copper doubtless deriving from copper pipework. The water is very hard in character but not excessively so and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It is of very satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.'



Details of the number of dwellinghouses supplied from the Public water mains (a) direct to houses and (b) by means of standpipes, are as follows:-

	<u>Direct</u>	<u>Stand</u> <u>Pipe</u>
Aslackby and Laughton .. .. .	84	-
Barholm and Stowe .. .. .	38	-
Baston.. .. .	214	-
Billingborough.. .. .	365	-
Braceborough and Wilsthorpe.. .. .	53	-
Careby, Aunby and Holywell.. .. .	48	-
Carlby.. .. .	77	-
Castle Bytham .. .. .	161	-
Corby Glen.. .. .	221	-
Counthorpe and Creeton.. .. .	47	-
Deeping St. James .. .. .	990	-
Dowsby.. .. .	60	-
Dunsby.. .. .	45	-
Edenham.. .. .	128	-
Folkingham.. .. .	160	-
Greatford .. .. .	55	-
Haconby.. .. .	88	-
Horbling .. .. .	142	-
Irnham.. .. .	35	-
Kirkby Underwood .. .. .	61	-
Langtoft .. .. .	176	-
Little Bytham .. .. .	91	-
Market Deeping.. .. .	671	-
Morton.. .. .	303	-
Pointon and Sempringham.. .. .	130	-
Rippingale.. .. .	193	-
Swayfield .. .. .	62	-
Swinstead .. .. .	83	-
Tallington.. .. .	101	-
Thurlby.. .. .	291	-
Toft, Lound and Manthorpe .. .. .	47	-
Uffington .. .. .	113	-
West Deeping .. .. .	92	-
Witham-on-the-Hill.. .. .	62	-
	<hr/> 5487	<hr/> -

## 8. RODENT CONTROL

The rat is a formidable opponent of mankind, and, over the centuries, it has defied all man's efforts to eradicate it. Apart from the fact that it is a carrier of disease, and, in this respect, in the Middle Ages it wiped out a quarter of the population of Europe as the carrier of bubonic plague, it is responsible for considerable damage to property and foodstuffs. It has been estimated that £50,000,000 damage per year in Great Britain is caused by rats.

It necessarily follows, therefore, that a continuous and relentless war must be waged by man against them in order to prevent them becoming too prevalent. During the last War, when it was vital to conserve food, various organisations were formed to destroy rats, and the Rodent Control service instituted by local authorities at that time has continued ever since. Like the human population, rats continue to increase in numbers but considerably more so, and one shudders to think what living conditions would be like in this Country were it not for the efforts of many people such as Mr. F.H. Batchelor, the Council's Rodent Operator, whose knowledge and expertise on rodent control in this district, has made him a friend and valuable ally of many farmers and householders.

Regular surveying of lands and premises was carried out in order to ascertain sources of infestations, in accordance with the Council's obligations under Section 2(a) of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. In addition to providing a free service for Rodent Disinfestation works at private dwellinghouses in the District, the Rodent Operator carried out similar work at business premises and farms, at a standard charge of 12s. 6d. per hour with 12s. 6d. minimum charge, which sum includes his time, materials and travelling expenses.

The Rodent Operator exercised strict control of all the Council's properties during the year, including refuse tips, which have been treated regularly and systematically, and of the many sewer dykes and parish watercourses. In addition 2173 private dwellinghouses were treated as also were 85 business and farm premises. In consequence of all these operations 3587 inspections were carried out.

## 9. PETROLEUM ACTS.

During the past year, 73 visits were made to premises where petroleum spirit is stored, as compared with 179 visits for the previous year, and 113 licences were issued by the Department, as compared with 112 for the previous year, after storage conditions had been found to be satisfactory, and when the usual safety precautions had been found to have been complied with, by the provision of the required number of fire extinguishers and a quantity



of sand.

## 10. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

### (a) Discretionary Grants

(a)	Number of applications received during		
	the year	-	40
(b)	Number approved	-	37
(c)	Number rejected	-	NIL
(d)	Number still under consideration at the		
	end of the year	-	2
(e)	Number of applications not proceeded with	-	1
(f)	Total Cash value of Grants approved during		
	the year	-	£13,970 0s. 0d.

### (b) Standard Grants

(a)	Number of applications received during		
	the year	-	37
(b)	Number approved	-	34
(c)	Number rejected	-	NIL
(d)	Number still under consideration at the		
	end of the year	-	1
(e)	Number of applications not proceeded with	-	2
(f)	Total Cash value of Grants approved during		
	the year	-	£5,259 12s. 4d.

As will be seen from the statistics on Page 3 of this Report, apart from Building Inspections which are carried out almost entirely by the Council's Building Inspector, visits in connection with Housing (680) and Improvement Grants (605) form a major part of the work of your Public Health Inspectors. Bare statistics in themselves cannot give a true picture of the considerable amount of time and thought given to Housing Improvement work by your Officers, involving as it does consultations with owners and builders, checking prices and specifications, visiting houses both before work is started and whilst it is in progress, and final visits after completion in order to see that the work has been satisfactorily carried out in accordance with the proposals submitted to and approved by the Council. Added to this is the large amount of administrative work both in the Public Health and Clerk's Departments where the clerical staff also play their part, but this combined effort has its reward in the continuing raising of living standards in the district.

The progressive policy of this Council in encouraging owners of properties to carry out improvements is most praiseworthy and compares very favourably with other Rural Districts of comparable size.



In this day and age, surely the provision of a bathroom, hot water supply and water closet is not a luxury but a necessity, and the time must soon come when these amenities should be provided in every house by law. Until the standard of a "fit" house is amended in law to include these amenities, your Officers continue to have friendly but persuasive discussions with property owners, producing a steady flow of applications for improvement grants. Every effort is made to induce owners to apply for a Discretionary rather than a Standard grant in the knowledge that, when the improvements have been completed, the house is brought up to a high standard, as against the provision of the five basic amenities in a house which will still require further reconditioning in the years to come.

#### 11. BUILDING INSPECTIONS.

The average number of plans approved under the Building Regulations during the past year was 27 per month, which, although slightly less than last year's figure of 32 per month, has still kept your Building Inspector very busy, particularly in the Deepings area where most of the new development is concentrated.

There has been a considerable increase, in recent years, in the amount of business with which the Council's Planning Committee, under the Chairmanship of Councillor G.G. Crowson, has had to deal, and the delegation which the Committee very wisely gave two or three years ago to myself to approve or reject all applications for approval under the Building Regulations, 1965, and to the Clerk to approve straightforward applications for Planning Consent, has given this Committee more time and thought to consider major aspects of Planning Control. This, to my mind, is the right sort of delegation from Council to Officer, as it certainly speeds up the time factor, and is of considerable benefit both to ratepayers and builders, who do not now have to wait for a Committee meeting before applications of a straightforward nature are approved. In turn, the members of the Planning Committee have now more time to give detailed consideration to such matters as estate and industrial development, with ultimate benefit to the district as a whole.

There is not the slightest doubt that the appointment of a full-time Building Inspector has meant that more time has been able to be spent 'on site' and this also is to the ultimate good of the finished product and to the benefit of purchasers of new houses. In addition, it has enabled the Public Health Inspectors to concentrate on their Public Health duties and to proceed with their inspections under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. I would again reiterate what a boon it is to have Building Control and Public Health work in the same Department. There are so many matters requiring approval under the Building Regulations which also require approval under Public Health and Housing legislation, and

the control of these in the same Department means that, like a jigsaw puzzle, the pattern emerges satisfactorily and to the betterment of all concerned, when all the pieces are fitted in their correct places.

## 12. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

It is pleasing to record that the past year was again a quiet one in regard to Infectious Diseases and 46 visits were made, generally of a routine nature, by your Officers, as compared with 37 visits during 1966. Nothing of any consequence occurred to which the Council's attention should be directed.

Despite the considerable improvement in the hygiene of food premises in recent years, there is still room for more and more education in personal hygiene, and the simple expedient of regular washing of hands, both in the home and in food premises, after using a sanitary convenience, would prevent many cases of "tummy" upset, with the consequent discomfort arising therefrom.

## 13. CARAVANS

There are three private licensed caravan sites in the area, all at Market Deeping, on which there are 56, 10 and 6 caravans respectively and these continue to be well maintained, and fulfill a need where the demands for housing accommodation are greatest. All three sites are provided with waste water gullies for each caravan standing, individual concrete standings, water closets, etc., and no complaints arose during the year regarding their supervision or maintenance.

In addition, there are 64 sites for individual caravans which are licensed for varying periods.

Due to the poor crop of blackcurrants last summer, we did not have our usual temporary invasion of caravans of all shapes and sizes at Ringstone Hill, Rippingale, this past year, as the owner of the blackcurrants harvested his crop with local labour.

## 14. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The following table shows the number of premises registered in the Rural District under the above Act during the year, the total number of premises registered to date, and the number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year:-



Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered during the year	Total number of Registered Premises at end of year	Number of Registered Premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	7	34	8
Retail Shops	10	51	28
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	5	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	4	9	5
Fuel Storage Depots	-	5	-
TOTALS	21	104	41



Sixty visits were made to registered premises during the year, and an additional twenty-eight visits were made to various premises which were subsequently found to be exempt from the provisions of the Act. Included in the premises visited were a number of catering establishments and food shops, and the opportunity was taken of carrying out inspections thereat under the Food Hygiene Regulations, and action was taken with a view to improvements being carried out also in this connection.

In general, we are finding that offices and shops are being brought up to the required standard, after the usual preliminary notices have been served, but one of the deficiencies of the Act is the lack of a statutory standard for lighting. Most newly-built shops are provided with satisfactory lighting but it is often difficult to obtain really good lighting in existing premises unless the existing lighting is obviously poor. It would help considerably in this respect if a legal minimum standard of lighting was introduced.

#### 15. STAFF

I am grateful for the loyal support of my staff without whose willing co-operation the work of the Department could not function so smoothly and efficiently as it has done during the past year. In Mr. J.G. Bower, I have an excellent Deputy whose personality is helping to maintain the good relations built up by the Department with the general public over the years. In February, we lost the services of Mr. B.W. Hyde who went to the Borough of Bewdley and we wish him well in his new appointment. In his place, we welcomed Mr. D. Goodley who has also carried out his duties in the north and west of the district in an efficient and helpful way. We also welcomed during the year Mr. V.B. Maxfield, in the new appointment of Sewage Works Chemist, who has been of invaluable assistance to your Surveyor (Mr. A.H. Harvey) and myself in connection with problems of sewage disposal and other drainage matters. Mr. C.H. Busby has again been a source of strength on the practical side of Building Control. During the year, the Council decided to appoint a Trainee Public Health Inspector, and Mr. R.B. Capindale commenced his training in the Autumn and has proved to be a most useful member of the Department. I continue to be highly delighted with the most efficient and cheerful way in which Miss J. Rawlinson carries out her duties, but was rather sad when we lost Miss P. Wade whose quiet efficiency and helpful outlook was Stamford's gain and our loss when she became Dr. Ellis Smith's Secretary there. In her place, we welcomed Miss N. Foster late in the year and we wish her every success.

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In conclusion, I would express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Chairman (Councillor Dr. J.A. Galletly) and members of the Public Health Committee for their confidence and support, to your Medical Officer of Health (Dr. H. Ellis Smith) for his unbounded friendship, constant advice and helpful understanding in many of the problems which confront the Department, to the Clerk of the Council (Mr. J.J.C. Goulder) for his sound counsel on many occasions, and to my other colleagues on the Council's staff for the courtesy and co-operation so freely given to me during another busy year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER A. CHIVERS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.









